T-300

P.004/013

F-683

U.S. Patent Appl. No. 09/852,157-Molenzar et al.

## I. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

## 1-15. (Canceled)

- (Currently Amended) A fermentation process for the preparation of a desired 16. L-amino acid selected from the group consisting of L-aspartic acid, L-asparagine, Lhomoserine, L-threonine, L-isoleucine, and L-lysine, and L-methionine, wherein the following steps are carried out:
- a) fermentation of an Corynebacterium or Brevibacterium strain in a fermentation broth for producing the desired L-amino acid, wherein a gene encoding malate:quinone oxidoreductase (mqo) of Corynebacterium glutamicum strain ATCC 13032 is overexpressed by increasing the copy number of said gene,
- concentration of the fermentation broth to eliminate water and increase the b) concentration said L-amino acids in the broth and Corynebacterium, and
- isolation of the L-amino acid from the fermentation broth and c) Corynebacterium of step (b).
- 17. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 16, wherein said activity of malate: quinone oxidoreductase is enhanced by transforming said Corynebacterium or Brevibacterium strain with a plasmid vector comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding said malate:quinone oxidoreductase of Corynebacterium glutamicum strain ATCC 13032.
- 18. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 16 17, wherein said plasmid vector is pRM17 deposited in Corynebacterium glutamicum, under accession number DSM12711.
- 19. (Currently Amended) A fermentation process for the preparation of a desired L-amino acid selected from the group consisting of L-lysine, and L-methionine, wherein the following steps are carried out:
- a) fermentation of an Corynebacterium glutamicum strain in a fermentation broth for producing the desired L-amino acid, wherein a gene encoding malate:quinone oxidoreductase (mqo) of Corynebacterium glutamicum strain ATCC 13032 is overexpressed by increasing the copy number of said gene,

U.S. Patent Appl. No. 09/852,157-Molenaar et al.

- b) concentration of the fermentation broth to eliminate water and increase the concentration said L-amino acids in the broth and Corynebacterium glutamicum, and
- c) isolation of the L-amino acid from the fermentation broth and Corynebacterium glutamicum of step (b).
- 20. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 19, wherein said activity of malate:quinone oxidoreductase is enhanced by transforming said Corynebacterium glutamicum strain with a plasmid vector comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding said malate:quinone oxidoreductase of Corynebacterium glutamicum strain ATCC 13032.
- 21. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 19 20, wherein said plasmid vector is pRM17 deposited in Corynebacterium glutamicum, under accession number DSM12711.
- 22. (Currently Amended) A fermentation process for the preparation L-lysine, wherein the following steps are carried out:
- a) fermentation of an Corynebacterium glutamicum strain in a fermentation broth for producing L-lysine, wherein a gene encoding malate:quinone oxidoreductase (mpo) (mqo) of Corynebacterium glutamicum strain ATCC 13032 is overexpressed by increasing the copy number of said gene,
- b) concentration of the fermentation broth to eliminate water and increase the concentration said L-lysine in the broth and Corynebacterium glutamicum, and
- c) isolation of the L-amino acid from the fermentation broth and Corynebacterium glutamicum of step (b).
- (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 22, further comprising overexpressing overexpression by increasing the copy number of one or more genes selected from the group consisting of a dapA gene encoding for dihydrodipicolinate synthase of Corynebacterium glutamicum and a gene encoding for S-(2-aminoethyl)-cysteine resistance protein of C. glutamicum.